

community filled with beautiful gardens for families to raise their children and individuals to support themselves. What has transpired since that time has been remarkable. Despite a devastating flood of the Santa Ana River in 1916 and a tragic earthquake in 1933, residents joined in spirit and labor to see to it that Garden Grove continued its mission of creating and expanding the city's economic and social opportunities. And that trend continues today. At the time of the 1960 census, Garden Grove had a population of nearly 44,000. Today, the population is more than 140,000. That makes Garden Grove the fourth largest city in Orange County and the 17th largest in the State of California, a true testament to its attractive nature.

Today, Garden Grove remains a dynamic and thriving city with a strong sense of its roots based on a truly distinctive history. And due to its central geographic location within Orange County, one of the most economically robust areas in California, Garden Grove has become an ideal environment for family living, commercial enterprises, and recreation. It is just what Alonzo Cook envisioned.

Mr. Speaker, I'm so proud to be a resident of this city. Happy anniversary, Garden Grove.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 178,
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, The Republican budget is the only honest plan that balances. It allows people to earn more, keep more, and do more with their families and communities.

The budget that my Republican colleagues and I have crafted symbolizes the historic changes and continuous process of shifting power out of Washington and back where it belongs—in the hands of the people.

The Clinton administration does not seem to realize that every dollar counts to working American families. If we had, right now, a budget that balanced, mortgage interest rates would be one point lower. That one point might only be \$65, but that \$65 means the difference between home ownership and renting for many families.

The Republican proposal fulfills our commitment to balance the budget by 2002, with lower deficits than the President's proposal every year. It provides a \$500-per-child tax credit for working families, reforms welfare, and protects Medicare, extending the solvency of the trust fund for 10 years. In short, this budget will improve the lives of every American. In addition, it enforces a hard freeze on nondefense discretionary spending in 1997 and achieves balance by reducing deficits every year from 1997 through 2002.

Last year, the House-passed budget resolution projected a deficit of \$173.5 billion in 1997. Today's budget resolution projects a deficit that is \$20 billion lower. It would be even lower if the President were as committed to a balanced budget as he claims.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, American families have worked to provide for the Government. It is time they worked to provide for themselves.

TRIBUTE TO LT. PATRICK BOLAND

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lt. Patrick Boland, a very determined young man, whose dauntless persistence and dedication have enabled him to reach a significant milestone in his life. Lieutenant Boland set a goal for himself, to serve our Nation as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, and he has worked tirelessly to achieve that goal.

After earning a bachelor of science degree from Clarkson University in 1992, Patrick Boland enrolled in the master of aerospace engineering program at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and joined the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps [AFROTC] in 1994. He received the Superior Performance Award in 1995, based on the leadership abilities that he demonstrated during his field training that summer. He also was chosen to be the leader of a newly formed Civil Air Patrol squadron. In the fall of 1995, he was selected for a pilot slot and was appointed to the highly selective Euro-NATO Joint Pilot Training Program, where he rose to the top of his class and was designated as a distinguished graduate. Last Friday, Patrick Boland received the last Regular Air Force commission from the Georgia Institute of Technology AFROTC program, while also receiving the master of aerospace engineering degree.

Lieutenant Boland is to be commended on his accomplishments. I would like to wish him much success as he dedicates himself to the service of our country as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 1996

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, in all of arguments we have heard against raising the minimum wage, an essential point is lost. In 1938, the Fair Labor Standards Act established the minimum wage to help maintain a "minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers." Today's minimum wage fails to meet that standard.

Since the minimum wage was last increased in 1991, the cost of living has risen 53.5 percent. If it is to have the buying power it had in the 1960's, it would have to jump immediately to \$5.65. And if it is left at the current level of \$4.25, the minimum wage will reach a 40-year low, when adjusted for inflation, in January 1997.

All the debate about what economists have said is useless when you consider that they do not agree among themselves about the effect of an increase in the minimum wage. Several of their studies have resulted in distinctly

opposite conclusions of what an increase will do to the economy and employment. What we must weigh in making this decision are the personal benefits such a move will have on individuals who are earning the current minimum wage.

As many of the religious organizations have attested in their calls for an increase, this is a matter of social and economic justice. No one can deny that those earning the minimum wage, particularly in those families where the sole wage earner only receives the minimum, are faced with severe economic hardship. And in a time when we are trying to promote independence and self-sufficiency, rather than reliance on the public dole, raising the minimum wage makes sense.

Raising the minimum wage will not prove to be such a hardship for many American companies. According to *Business Week* figures, corporate profits increased 75 percent and annual CEO pay increased 92 percent from 1990 to 1995. Productivity is on the rise. Nevertheless, the average hourly wages for the 82 percent of the workforce that are production or supervisory workers have steadily declined since 1979. Workers are simply not being paid at a rate that corresponds to their rising output, and it is time for corporations to reverse this trend.

For those who would argue that small businesses would be the ones that would truly suffer from an increase in the minimum wage, we have already passed the Small Business Tax Relief Act, which will be linked to this increase. In this bill, we alleviate some of the regulatory and financial burdens placed on these businesses, so they can devote more resources to their employees.

As this debate continues, we will see that for every argument, there is a counter argument. Let's just return to the basics and accept what even many Republicans have accepted, that humaneness calls upon us to raise the minimum wage again. Let's stop quibbling about how many teenagers, how many single mothers, how many sole household earners will be affected from an increase. Let us raise the minimum because it is the right thing to do; because 80 percent of the American people believe an increase is warranted; because we must re-establish a minimum wage that provides a "minimum standard of living necessary for health, efficiency and general well-being of workers."

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 1996

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes:

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.